

The background of the top half of the cover is a photograph of a misty, mountainous landscape. Two eagles are perched on a mossy peak in the lower-left corner. The title 'ECCLESIASTES:' is written in a large, white, serif font across the upper-middle part of the image.

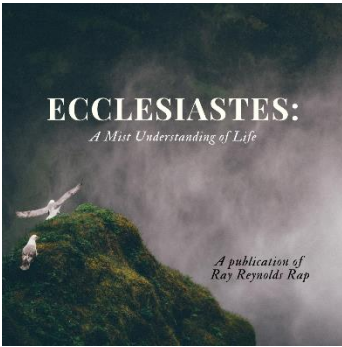
ECCLESIASTES:

A Mist Understanding of Life

*A publication of
Ray Reynolds Rap*

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Workbook by Ray Reynolds, Ph.D.



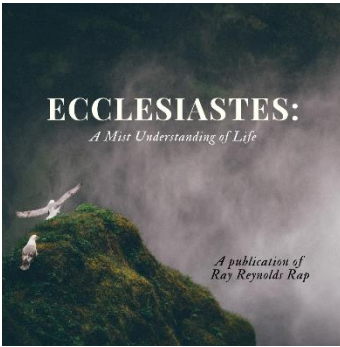
BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

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Introduction = Mist-Understanding

Introduction: A few years ago, I did a full month of study on the “Fear of the Lord.” In that study I considered many passages of Scripture that remind us of who God is, what He has done in the past, what He is doing at this present time, and what He has promised to do in the future. That study kept bringing me back to the wisdom of Solomon and the book of Ecclesiastes. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Seeking & Finding the Answers

The Beginning (Ecclesiastes 1:12-14)

The End (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14)

The Middle

II. Not Pessimism, or Optimism, but Realism

Reality #1 = We all have an expiration date.

Hebrews 9:27, Numbers 32:13, Psalm 90:1-6

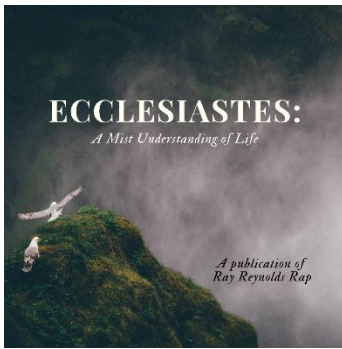
Reality #2 = We must choose how we view life and death.

Romans 8:18, Philippians 1:21, Philippians 3:14, II Timothy 4:6-8

Reality #3 = We need to count our days so our days will count.

Psalm 90:7-12, Psalm 39:4, Revelation 1:8, 22:13, Psalm 39:4-7

Conclusion: We should look at the metaphors used in reference to “life” found in the Bible. The Scriptures compare life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and mist. James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). We are going to study the book of Ecclesiastes to help us seek a mist understanding. Are you living for this life or the next one? The “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord?



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Chapter 1 = Mist-Adventures

Introduction: Driving can be an adventure by itself. What can you learn from others on the road? What can you learn about yourself? Consider ***7 Insane Driving Tips:***

- #1 = Road signs are suggestions.
- #2 = Speed limits are the minimum.
- #3 = “Merge” means to get out of the other persons way... and fast!
- #4 = Stopping, for any reason, is a sign of weakness.
- #5 = Unexpected car problems are always blamed on the man.
- #6 = Being early means being on time.
- #7 = The passenger is responsible for loose items in the car.

Life is full of adventures. If you have a mist understanding you can enjoy the adventure of a lifetime. Last week we considered several Bible terms used in reference to life. The Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, but I am intrigued with this word “mist.” Our life is like a puff of air. James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (**James 4:14**). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little puff of air (mist). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Adventure #1 = Break Out of Your Comfort Zone (vs.1-3)

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
Matthew 7:24-27
John 6:22-52

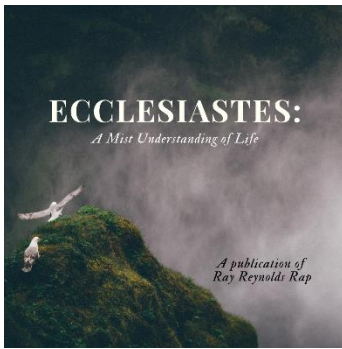
Adventure #2= Roll With The Punches (vs.4-11)

1 Timothy 6:6
Matthew 6:33
Proverbs 16:18

Adventure #3= Embrace the Traffic & Detours (vs.12-18)

Matthew 9:20-22
Mark 5:25-34
Luke 8:43-48
John 4:1-30

Conclusion: Your life is a mist. What will you do with it? Why not live a “mist” adventure? Are you living for this life or the next one? The “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord?



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Chapter 2 = Mist-Behaving

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to stop misbehaving and start mist behaving! Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Mist Behaving = Recognizing the Perfect Storm (vs.1-10)

I Kings 3:7-9, I Kings 4:29-34, I Kings 5:12, I Kings 10:23-24, Proverbs 1:1-6,
II Chronicles 1:7-12, Proverbs 14:13, Ecclesiastes 7:4, Ecclesiastes 8:15,
Matthew 7:24-27

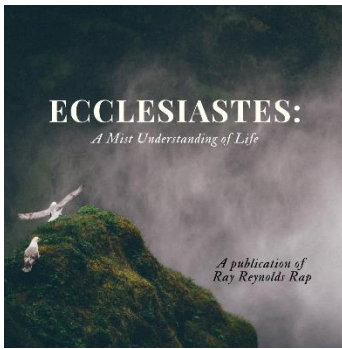
II. Mist Behaving = Bringing Your “A” Game (vs.11-17)

Proverbs 2:10-13, Ecclesiastes 9:10, Ecclesiastes 12:6, Ecclesiastes 12:13

III. Mist Behaving = Changing Your Point of View (vs.18-26)

Genesis 12:1-3, II Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 51, Acts 9, James 1:17,
Ecclesiastes 8:15, Ecclesiastes 9:7-10, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Conclusion: This world is intoxicating. Satan has worked very hard to get us caught up in all of the pleasure that will bring on the death sleep! An eternal death sleep! Are you ready to wake up and start mist behaving? Do you need a revival? Do you need prayer? Do you need to re-examine your live through the eyes of our Savior Christ? Your life is a mist. What will you do with it? Are you living for this life or the next one? Are you behaving for this life or the next one? The “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord?



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Chapter 3 = Mist-Education

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to be mist educated on how to live the life we have been given! Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Mist Education = Every Season Has A Reason (vs.1-8)

Job 7:6–7, Psalm 89:48, II Corinthians 5:6–7, Isaiah 57:1–2, John 14:1-7, John 14:19, James 4:13–14

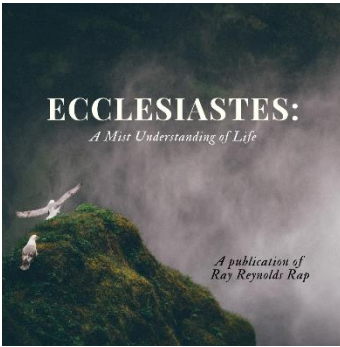
II. Mist Education = The Paradox of Learning (vs.9-15)

Acts 26:24, Ecclesiastes 5:7, Ecclesiastes 7:18, Ecclesiastes 8:12-13, Ecclesiastes 12:13, Ecclesiastes 2:24-26, Hebrews 9:27, I Corinthians 6:12, I Corinthians 10:23

III. Mist Education = There is More to Man Than Meets the Eye (vs.16-22)

Matthew 10:28, Genesis 2:7, Ecclesiastes 12:7, I Thessalonians 5:23, Matthew 22:37, Romans 12:1-2

Conclusion: We need to be mist educated! Every soul is precious to God. Every soul is created with a purpose in mind. Every human being is created in the image of God and is called by God to everlasting life because He wants to take us home. He sent His son to die for all of mankind (John 3:16). Do you need a revival? Do you need prayer? Do you need to re-examine your life through the eyes of our Savior? Your life is a mist. What will you do with it? Are you living for this life or the next one? Remember that the “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord?



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Chapter 4= Mist-Opportunity

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to take advantage of the mist opportunities we have been given! Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Mist Opportunity #1 = No Pain, No Gain (vs.1-3)

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Psalm 6, 13, 18, 23, 25, 27, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 46, 51, 55, 62, 63, 69, 71, 73, 77, 84,, 90, 91, 94, 95, 103, 104, 107, 110, 116, 118, 121, 123, 124, 130, 138, 139, 141, 142, 143, 146, 147, Jonah 2:2-9, 4:3, 8-9, Genesis 15, Job, Jeremiah, I Kings 19, I Samuel 16:14-23, II Corinthians 12:7-10, Matthew 26:39, I Corinthians 10:13

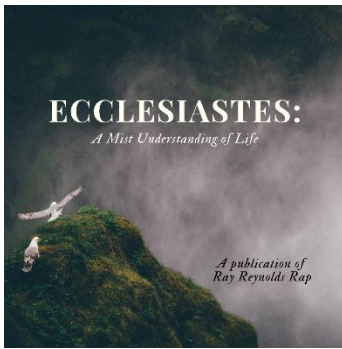
Mist Opportunity #2= Don’t Make Good Advice a Bad Thing (vs.4-6)

Proverbs 10:26, Proverbs 12:11, Proverbs 12:24, Proverbs 12:27, Proverbs 13:4, Proverbs 14:4, Proverbs 14:23, Proverbs 15:19, Proverbs 16:26, Proverbs 18:9, Proverbs 19:15, Proverbs 19:24, Proverbs 20:4, Proverbs 20:13, Proverbs 21:5, Proverbs 21:25, Proverbs 22:13, Proverbs 24:30-34, Proverbs 31:10-31.

Mist Opportunity #3= Raise The Bar (vs.7-16)

Proverbs 18:22, Philippians 3:12-14, Romans 12:16, Colossians 3:2, Hebrews 11-12, Matthew 6:33

Conclusion: We need to take advantage of mist opportunities! Don’t let them pass you by. Do you need prayer? Do you need to revive your life? Do you need to re-examine your live through the eyes of our Savior? Your life is a mist. What will you do with it? Are you living for this life or the next one? Remember that the “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord?



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Chapter 5 = Mist-Information

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to seek the truth and purge our minds of misinformation. We need mist information! Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Step #1 = Work on Your Relationship With God (vs.1-7)

Job 11:6, Job 12:16, II Chronicles 2:12, Proverbs 1:4, Proverbs 8:5, Proverbs 8:12, John 4:24, I Corinthians 14:14-20

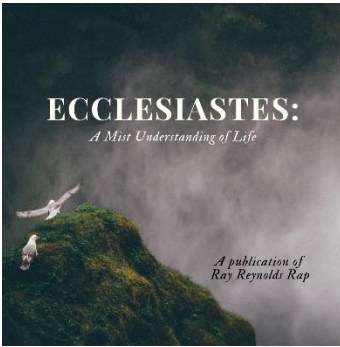
Step #2 = Work on Your Relationship With Others (vs.8-17)

John 12:1-8, Acts 2:44-45, 4:32-37, James 1:27, Matthew 5:19, Matthew 25:40, Matthew 25:45, Luke 12:48, Hebrews 9:27, I Timothy 2:2, I Peter 2:17, I Timothy 6:10, James 4:17

Step #3 = Work on Your Relationship With Yourself (vs.18-20)

I Samuel 13:14, Acts 12:22, Deuteronomy 6:5, Deuteronomy 10:12, Deuteronomy 11:13, Deuteronomy 13:3, Deuteronomy 30:6, Joshua 22:5, Matthew 22:37, Mark 12:30, Luke 10:27

Conclusion: You probably don’t have a death wish, but you should no longer fear death. Don’t fear the future, because you know the One who holds the future. We’ve got to stop looking for the Hallmark movie ending to our life! Ignore the misinformation the world is force feeding the people. There is a God. Jesus did live, die, and He is risen! Do you believe? Are you living like you believe? Do you need to revive your life? Do you need to re-examine your live through the eyes of our Savior? Your life is a mist. What will you do with it? Are you living for this life or the next one? Remember that the “whole” of man is to fear God and keep His commandments. Will you give your whole heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord? It’s time to get to work!



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Chapter 6 = Mist-Giving

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a series of lessons on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. We can’t suck it back in or blow it out infinitely. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to let go of our misgivings and start mist giving. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Mist Giving = Managing Your Expectations (vs.1-6)

Philippians 4:13, Matthew 19:26, Mark 9:23, Mark 10:27, Mark 14:36, Mark 18:27, I Corinthians 10:13

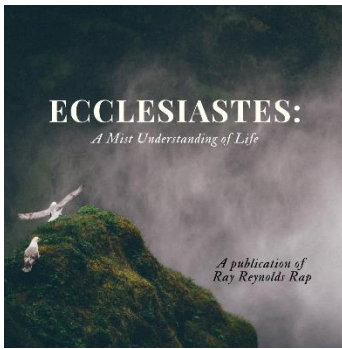
II. Mist Giving = Find the Silver Lining (vs.7-9)

Proverbs 15:16, Proverbs 19:1, Proverbs 28:6, Luke 12:21, Matthew 6:19-20, I Timothy 6:9

III. Mist Giving = Pro-Active Planning (vs.10-12)

Luke 15:11-32, Acts 2:23, Romans 8:29-30, Ephesians 1:5, Ephesians 1:11, I Peter 1:2, James 4:13-17

Conclusion: Remember the poem entitled “There’s No Pocket in a Shroud.” There is so much good to be done in this world and the Lord has called us to do it! If you and I do not go out and perform good deeds, who else will? If we don’t pool our resources to help missions, Christian ministries, and great works, who else will? We need to set aside our misgivings... let go of the doubt, distrust, and apprehension about what people will do with what we give them and we need to start mist giving! Let’s give liberally to the work of the kingdom. Let’s help the weak and poor. Let’s listen to Solomon’s advice and stop worrying about accumulating riches, wealth, and honor. We need to seek God and His will for our life. We need to find our purpose.



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Chapter 7 = Mist-Takes

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have been studying the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. What should we do with our mist? We need to let go of our mistakes and start having mist takes. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Mist Take #1= Stop Viewing Life As An Entitlement (vs.1-14)

Luke 16:19-31, Luke 12:22-31, Psalm 90:12, James 4:13-15, Hebrews 9:27

Mist Take #2= Start Thinking Outside the Box (vs.15-26)

Genesis 24:45-49, Matthew 7:13-14, Numbers 20:17, Deuteronomy 5:32, Deuteronomy 17:11, Deuteronomy 17:20, Deuteronomy 28:14, Philippians 4:11, I Timothy 6:6-8

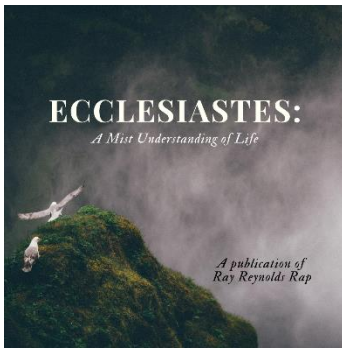
Mist Take #3= Never Drink the Kool-Aid (vs.27-29)

Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3:1-13, Matthew 18:3, Matthew 19:13-14, Mark 7:27-28, Mark 9:37, Mark 10:13-14, Luke 18:15-16, James 1:12-15, Ecclesiastes 2:16

Mist Take #4= Always Look to God!

Psalm 8:4, Psalm 144:3-4, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 7:7, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24, John 16:24

Conclusion: Try to gain a mist understanding. Don’t chase the mist. Don’t try to grasp the mist. Just remember who breathed life inside of your nostrils. Remember the Creator! What’s the whole of man? To fear God, keep His commandments, and prepare for Judgment Day (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14). Give God your heart, soul, mind and strength! Will you let God have your mistakes? Will you step back and do a mist take?



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Chapter 8 = Mist-Leading

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have been studying the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. We really need to elect, embrace, and encourage leaders who lead with a mist understanding. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Poor Leaders Drop the Ball (vs.1-9)

Exodus 18:21, Numbers 27:16-17, Romans 13:1-5, II Chronicles 19:5-7, Daniel 2:31-45, Psalm 75:7, Proverbs 11:14, Matthew 20:26-28, John 10:11, I Peter 2:11-17, I Timothy 2:1-2

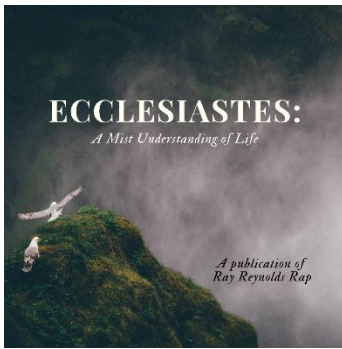
II. Acknowledge The 800 Pound Gorilla in the Room (vs.10-13)

II Chronicles 19:5-10, Ezekiel 18:20, Ezekiel 18:30, Matthew 12:36, Hebrews 9:27, Matthew 22:21, Mark 12:17, Luke 20:20-26, John 2:13-25, Luke 13:1-9, Matthew 27:11-31, Mark 15:1-20, Luke 23:1-25, John 19:1-16

III. Remember the Bottom Line (vs.14-17)

Ecclesiastes 2:24-26, Ecclesiastes 3:12-13, Ecclesiastes 5:18-20, Luke 17:3, John 3:18, Romans 14:11-12, I Corinthians 3:8, II Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 13:17, Hebrews 9:27

Conclusion: What can we learn from the sandhill cranes? Let’s listen to Solomon’s advice about leadership and living a life of purpose. Therefore, when someone steps forward with some integrity, and morality, let’s offer them some encouragement. If your nation is turbulent, choose leaders that can endure! If your life is turbulent, look to Jesus who can still storms and give you peace. If your marriage is turbulent, look to the Head of your home and let Him build you up again. If your spiritual life is turbulent, remember that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He came to this earth, lived among men, died a cruel death, and He rose up from the grave ALL FOR YOU so you could inherit eternal life. Come to Him while you can! Give your heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord!



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Chapter 9 = Mist-Management

Introduction: We are currently engaged in a study of the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping see that we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). We can’t hold that mist in our hand. The mist is only there for a short time and then it fades away. This particular chapter he’s going to show us some life management skills that will help us in our daily walk with God. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

Life Management Skill #1 - Expose the Inevitability of Death (vs.1-6)

A= Acknowledge God's Presence

Exodus 3:1-4:17, Psalm 90, Habakkuk 2:20, Psalm 46:10

H= Humble Yourself in the Sight of the Lord

Exodus 10:3, II Kings 22:19, II Chronicles 34:27, Daniel 5:22, 10:12, James 4:10

A= Actively Honor God

Romans 8:26-27, I Corinthians 3:16-17, II Corinthians 1:5, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 1:13-14, Titus 3:5, II Peter 1:3-4

Life Management Skill #2 - Enjoy the Uncertainty of Life (vs.7-12)

Enjoy daily activities (vs.7-8)

Luke 9:23, Romans 12:1-2

Enjoy your relationships (v.9)

Song of Songs 8:6-7, Ephesians 5:22-23, John 13:34-35

Enjoy your work (vs.10-12)

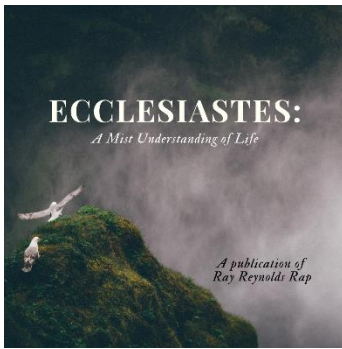
Proverbs 12:14, Proverbs 28:19, I Corinthians 15:58, Ephesians 6:5-9

Life Management Skill #3 - Extract Godly Wisdom (vs.13-18)

Proverbs 1:7, Proverbs 2:6-12, Proverbs 13:10, Isaiah 55:9, Jeremiah 9:23-24,

Hosea 14:9, Matthew 7:24-27, I Corinthians 2:1-16, James 1:5

Conclusion: What can we learn from worldly people like Howard Hughes? Let’s listen to Solomon’s advice about living a good life and living in the mist. Do you have a mist understanding? Are you living for this life or the next one? What’s the whole of man? To fear God and keep His commandments. Give your heart, soul, mind and strength to the Lord! Stop grasping at the wind. Choose wisdom and live under the will of God.



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Chapter 10 = Mist-Representing

Introduction: We are currently studying the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away” (James 4:14). Solomon is helping us to see we can’t grasp this little mist (puff of air). Solomon started his search for a *Mist Understanding* by explaining his *Mist Adventures* (1), how he started *Mist Behaving* (2), gave us insight to his *Mist Education* (3), shared the advantage of *Mist Opportunities* (4), why he sought *Mist Information* (5), the reason he started *Mist Giving* (6), how to embrace *Mist Takes* (7), practice *Mist Leading* (8) and the benefits of *Mist Management* (9). Now he reveals that if we want to show the world we have a *Mist Understanding*, we need to *Mist Represent* the truth (10). Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Mist Representation By Avoiding Spiritual Bankruptcy (vs.1-4)

Judges 3:1-8, James 1:12-13, Deuteronomy 7:1-6, Deuteronomy 12:8, Judges 17:6, Judges 21:25, I Corinthians 5:9-11, I Corinthians 6:19-20, Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 4:17-19

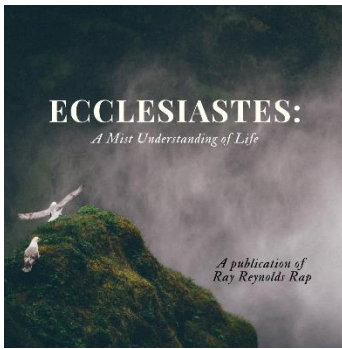
II. Mist Representation By Avoiding Senseless Blunders (vs.5-15)

Proverbs 30:21-23, Job 40-41, Deuteronomy 29:29, Exodus 20:17, Deuteronomy 5:21, Proverbs 21:26, Matthew 26:11, Mark 14:7, John 12:8, James 2:2

III. Mist Representation By Avoiding Shrewd Babble (vs.16-20)

Psalms 5:1, Psalm 7:1, Psalm 9:16, Psalm 19:14, Psalm 49:3, Psalm 64:1, Psalm 86:1, Psalm 104:34, Psalm 119:1, Psalm 119:97, Psalm 119:99, Matthew 4:1-2, Matthew 26:36-46, Mark 1:12-13, Mark 6:31, Mark 1:35, Luke 6:12, Psalm 46:10, Habakkuk 2:20

Conclusion: What lesson could we learn from Sarah Winchester? Death is not meant to be a burden because it is an everlasting freedom from trial, sickness, and heart-breaking things on this earth! People who choose a life of foolishness misrepresent what life is about. Once you realize that everything under the sun is just a mist, you will start mist representing God everywhere you go, fulfilling your God-given purpose. You will choose the path of wisdom. Do you need to turn back to God? Do you need to put on Christ?



BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

Chapter 11 = Mist-Calculating

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have been studying the book of Ecclesiastes. We have studied about how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14). In the last two chapters Solomon wraps up his book with some transparent conclusions. In the eleventh chapter he challenges us to invest in things of a spiritual nature. You don’t need a calculator to figure it out, but you will need a Bible and an open heart. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Invest Wisely (vs.1-2)

Luke 6:38, Matthew 7:12, Luke 16:1-8, Luke 16:19-31, Luke 12:22-31,
Matthew 25:31-46, Acts 2:44-45, Acts 4:32-35, Acts 20:35, I Corinthians 16:1-2,
II Corinthians 8:1-5, II Corinthians 9:7

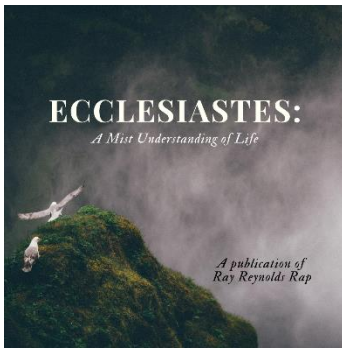
II. Think Wisely (vs.3-8)

Proverbs 3:5-6, James 1:5, Jeremiah 29:11, Philippians 4:6-7, Ecclesiastes 1:12-14,
Galatians 6:7-9, James 1:22, II Timothy 3:16-17

III. Live Wisely (vs.9-10)

I Timothy 4:12, Matthew 19:14, Mark 10:14, Luke 18:16, Proverbs 22:6,
Matthew 12:36, II Corinthians 5:10, Hebrews 9:27, Psalm 39:4, Psalm 90:7-12,
II Timothy 4:6-8

Conclusion: It would serve us well to the advice of godly people got off track and found their way back. One scripture, that clearly helps us see the need for mist calculating, was written by a man who had a habit of miscalculating. It took a while to figure out what his purpose was but he eventually followed God’s direction for the rest of his life. That man was the apostle Peter. He allowed John Mark to pen part of his story in a gospel account that bears Mark’s name, but he also penned two letters himself. Look at the first part of his second letter and you will see that we must add to our faith (II Peter 1:1-11). Have you made your calling and election sure? Are you ready for your entrance into the everlasting kingdom? Are you ready to meet your God? If not, get on track before it’s too late. And if you are on track, remember that you are called to lead others to the straight and narrow pathway. Let’s stop miscalculating and start mist calculating!



BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds

Chapter 12 = Mist-Alignments

Introduction: This week we are concluding our series on the book of Ecclesiastes. We have noticed how the Bible compares our life to dust, grass, shadow, vapor, breath, and a mist (a puff of air). James says, “*Your life is like a mist. You can see it for a short time, but then it goes away*” (James 4:14), but Solomon says don’t spend your life trying to grasp at the mist (Ecclesiastes 1:14, 1:17, 2:11, 2:17, 2:26, 4:4, 4:6, 4:16, 6:9). In this final chapter, Solomon tells us how to give our life a mist adjustment. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

I. Align Your Past (vs.1-2)

Ecclesiastes 11:9-10, Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:6-7, Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21, Mark 10:32, Luke 12:32, Matthew 10:28, Luke 12:5, Psalm 103:12, Micah 7:19, Jeremiah 31:31-34, Hebrews 8:8-12, Philippians 3:13-14

II. Align Your Present (vs.3-7)

Genesis 2:7, Genesis 25:17, Lamentations 1:19, Luke 12:22-34, Matthew 6:19-34, Matthew 25:31-46, Philippians 4:6

III. Align Your Future (vs.8-14)

Joshua 14:6-15, Joshua 15:13-19, Isaiah 25:8, Matthew 5:17-20, Matthew 7:13-14, John 14:2-3, Philippians 1:23, Colossians 3:1-5, II Peter 3:13, Revelation 7:17, Revelation 21:4, Revelation 22:5

Conclusion: Worldly people don’t know how to prepare for death. Unfortunately, many godly people aren’t prepared either. Solomon says, “*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether good or evil.*” We need to align our past, present, and future. Are you ready to meet God in judgment? If you have not feared God, believe and repent. If you have not kept commandments of the Lord, confess those faults. If you are not prepared for judgment, be baptized or be restored. God patiently waits for your decision. Come to Jesus!